

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims reflects the correct listing of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A filtering device for capturing embolic material released into a body vessel during a therapeutic interventional procedure, comprising:

a guide wire having a proximal end and a distal end and adapted to be inserted within the vasculature of a patient ~~and maneuvered to a point distal to an interventional procedure site;~~

an expandable cage assembly having distal and proximal ends, the cage assembly being attached to the distal end of the guide wire and expandable to capture embolic material and collapsible to retain the captured embolic material;

filter material secured to the expandable cage assembly; and

at least one discrete hinge located on the guide wire proximal to the expandable cage assembly and another hinge located distal to the expandable cage assembly to allow the expandable cage assembly to freely articulate on the guidewire guide wire.

2. (Original) The filtering device of claim 1, wherein:

the guide wire does not pass through the expandable cage assembly and comprises separate sections, one section attached to and extending from the proximal end of the expandable cage assembly and one section attached to and extending from the distal end of the expandable cage assembly.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The filtering device of claim 1, wherein:

~~each the at least one hinge~~ comprises notches cut along the longitudinal axis of the guide wire such that an area of decreased guidewire guide wire diameter is created.

6. (Currently Amended) The filtering device of claim 1, wherein:
~~each the at least one hinge comprises slots cut in the guide wire, each slot extending along the longitudinal axis.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The filtering device of claim 1, wherein:
~~each the at least one hinge comprises slots cut in the guide wire, each slot extending perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The filtering device of claim 1, wherein:
~~each the at least one hinge comprises holes cut in the guide wire along the longitudinal axis.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The filtering device of claim 1, wherein:
~~each the at least one hinge comprises a spring connecting separate sections of the guide wire.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The filtering device of claim 1, wherein:
~~each the at least one hinge comprises a portion of material having a different durometer than the guide wire, the portion of material connecting separate sections of the guide wire.~~

11-18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The filtering device of claim 1, further comprising:
stop fittings attached to the guide wire at the proximal and distal ends of the expandable cage assembly, the stop fittings preventing the expandable cage assembly from moving proximally or distally along the guide wire.

20. (Original) The filtering device of claim 19, further comprising:
a third stop fitting attached to the guide wire distal to the proximal end of the expandable cage assembly.

21. (Original) The filtering device of claim 20, wherein:
the three stop fittings are conical-shaped and provide a smooth transition between
the expandable cage assembly and guide wire.

22-25. (Canceled)

26. (New) A filtering device for capturing embolic material released into a
body vessel during a therapeutic interventional procedure, comprising:
a guide wire having a proximal end and a distal end and adapted to be inserted
within the vasculature of a patient;

a filter device associated with the guide wire; and
at least one discrete hinge located on the guide wire to allow the filter device to
freely articulate on the guide wire.

27. (New) The filtering device of claim 26, wherein:
the at least one hinge is located distal to the filter device.

28. (New) The filtering device of claim 26, wherein:
the at least one hinge is located proximal to the filter device.

29. (New) The filtering device of claim 26, wherein:
the at least one hinge comprises notches cut along the longitudinal axis of the
guide wire such that an area of decreased guide wire diameter is created.

30. (New) The filtering device of claim 26, wherein:
the at least one hinge comprises slots cut in the guide wire, each slot extending
along the longitudinal axis.

31. (New) The filtering device of claim 1, wherein:
the at least one hinge comprises slots cut in the guide wire, each slot extending
perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

32. (New) The filtering device of claim 1, wherein:

the at least one hinge comprises holes cut in the guide wire along the longitudinal axis.

33. (New) The filtering device of claim 26, wherein:

the at least one hinge comprises a spring connecting separate sections of the guide wire.

34. (New) The filtering device of claim 26, wherein:

the at least one hinge comprises a portion of material having a different durometer than the guide wire, the portion of material connecting separate sections of the guide wire.

35. (New) The filtering device of claim 28, wherein:

a discrete hinge is located distal to the filter device.

36. (New) The filtering device of claim 26, wherein:

the filter device is self-expanding.

37. (New) The filtering device of claim 36, wherein:

the expandable filter includes an expandable cage made from a material having self-expanding properties.

38. (New) The filtering device of claim 36, further including:

an obturator attached to the filter device which forms a hinge allowing the obturator to freely articulate on the guide wire.

39. (New) The filtering device of claim 36, wherein:

the discrete hinge is made from a reduced area of mass along the guide wire.